

(When Filled In)

C9923

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEM BY

28

PER #

TOTAL COPIES

29-2

REPRO BY

MF2. 1-72

FILE REF.

OC/SAN 4 OC/WES OC/FEED 3

ONE INDKA CR/E, D/EBIS/A

WH3 FUR3 CR3 C/SP

NNNN EIC892LAN374  
RR RUHATIB  
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH  
ESA904LZA950  
RR RUEHC RUFHOL RUFJC  
DE RUESLZ #2845 1451950  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 241927Z MAY 72  
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6966  
INFO RU PALJ/USCINCSO  
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 073  
RUESAD/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 031  
RUFJC/AMEMBASSY PARIS  
RUESUP/AMCONSUL SAO PAULO 058  
BT  
UNCLAS LA PAZ 2845

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJ: ALTMANN CONFESSES TO HAVING USED PSEUDONYM BARBIE

REF: LA PAZ 2819 NOTAL

1. MAY 24 PRESENCIA HEADLINED AN ARTICLE BY AP CORRESPONDENT HAROLD OLMOS WHICH GAVE DETAILS OF AN APRIL 23 INTERVIEW WITH ALTMANN IN WHICH ALTMANN ACKNOWLEDGED HAVING USED THE PSEUDONYM KLAUS BARBIE DURING WORLD WAR II. ALTMANN IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT HE USED THAT PSEUDONYM ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS, AND THAT HE DIRECTED A SPECIAL SS FORCE IN FRANCE. HOWEVER, HE DENIED THAT HE HAD EVER BEEN CHIEF OF THE GESTAPO IN FRANCE OR THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATROCITIES OF WHICH BARBIE HAD BEEN ACCUSED. WITH REFERENCE TO O ESTADO DO SAO PAULO ARTICLE (REFTEL, ALTMANN STATED THAT THE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE NEWSPAPER ONLY CONSISTED OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE INTERVIEW AND NOT FOR THE PUBLICATION OF HIS MEMOIRS.

2. PRESENCIA ALSO CARRIED A STATEMENT BY MININTERIOR ADET ZAMORA TO THE EFFECT THAT ONCE THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT ARE SWORN IN THE COURT WILL RENDER ITS DECISION IN THE ALTMANN CASE. ADET ZAMORA SAID THAT THE COURT'S DECISION WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY.

FOR COORDINATION WITH

State

SECRET

201-Altman

SECRET  
(When Filled In)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 1.72

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEM BY

PER #

TOTAL COPIES

REPRO BY

FILE RF.

2/2

923

3. COMMENT: THE INTERESTING ASPECT OF ALTMANN'S "CONFESSION" IS THAT HE CLAIMS TO BE ALTMANN, WHO USED THE PSEUDONYM OF BARBIE, RATHER THAN VICE VERSA. AS ALTMANN WAS NATURALIZED UNDER THE NAME ALTMANN, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HIS NATURALIZATION WAS NOT FRAUDULENT AS MANY HAVE CLAIMED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IF HIS TRUE NAME HAD BEEN BARBIE. THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT AS TO THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE AP ARTICLE, AND IT IS NOW CLEAR --PROBABLY ALSO IN THE MIND OF THE BOLIVIAN PUBLIC-- THAT ALTMANN AND BARBIE ARE INDEED THE SAME PERSON. BARNEBEY  
BT

#2845

SECRET